

Support 4503, 4504, 4506, 4507, 4500  
Neutral 4499, 4505, 4508

May 26, 2015

Regarding HB 4499, HB 4500, HB 4503-4508

Dear House Judiciary Committee;

My name is Ashley Duval, Deputy Director of Sons and Daughters United and also a victim of Michigan's civil asset forfeiture laws.

In 2011 the Police came to my family farm and stole my personal property. Not only did we just lose a few small things, but we lost our entire farm from this unfair law. For following state medical marijuana laws, the police seized anything they wanted to, claiming it could be evidence used in court. This list included cars, medical records, cameras, video recorders, computers, my guns, the purchase agreement to my new home and so much more.

One of these vehicles was seized at a later date in town at our local post office. That's right, imagine going to get your mail, being surrounded by the police and taking your vehicle, just because they can. Nothing was found inside this vehicle, nor was it owned by the defendants of the crime charged. But they said I repeat again "said" it was paid for with drug money.

So because they think something is paid for with drug money gives them the right to take it, even without evidence?

The home and farm I grew up on is now owned by an oil well company, sold to them from the government. The house I grew up in, where my hand print lay in the cement, is now vacant for three years and will soon be no good. My personal property was taken, even though I was not charged with a crime. The only way I can get it back is to fight for it in court, which cost money.

It doesn't matter who owns the home or vehicles, the people who were charged didn't own half the items the police stole from me. But the police are allowed to take whatever they want.

Asset forfeiture laws need to be changed. This law creates more police abuse than any other, policing for profit is what it called. The police target certain individuals seeing a high payout from this law. I mean would you raid someone you knew had nothing to seize or someone with a nice house, nice vehicles and items you can steal?

Why is it that only drug crimes are targeted, a non-violent crime? Why do people who murder another person get to keep their home?

Asset forfeiture laws need to be eliminated or completely redone; this is unfair and cruel to citizens who do no wrong! It's not fun watching the governments steal everything you own and everything your family has worked their entire life to get in a matter of hours and have a smile on their face while doing it. That day was one of the most heart breaking brutal days ever, watching them taken whatever they wanted and not being able to do a darn thing about it. I ask to you to do something and make a change to this unfair law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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